



*Senator Margaret Rotundo, Co-Chair*

*Representative John Patrick, Co-Chair*

STATE OF MAINE

June 22, 2006

Ingrid V. Mithem, Director  
Industry Trade Advisory Center  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenue, NW.  
Room 4043  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Mitchem:

The Secretary of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative have sought nominations for the appointment of a public health or health care community representative to the Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Health/Science Products and Services ("ITAC 3") and the Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Intellectual Property Rights ("ITAC 15"). Previously the National Legislative Association on Prescription Drugs Prices ("NLARx") nominated Sharon Treat to be a representative for ITAC 15. We join NLARx in strongly supporting the nomination of Sharon Treat for either ITAC 3 or ITAC 15.

The Citizen Trade Policy Commission was established by the Maine Legislature to assess and monitor the legal, policy and economic impacts of international trade agreements at the state and local levels. As part of our work, healthcare is an important focus area and Ms. Treat has proved to be an invaluable resource in our efforts to analyze the impact of trade agreement on Maine's unique healthcare system. Ms. Treat, an attorney and former college administrator and state legislator, is nationally recognized as a leader on public health and pharmaceutical policy issues, and also has expertise specific to trade policy and pharmaceutical access and affordability.

CTPC believes that Ms. Treat can provide the USTR with important input from the public health and health care community that will greatly assist the USTR in developing sound U.S. trade policy. As a result of organizing national conferences on pharmaceutical policy for state policymakers, Ms. Treat is familiar with the status of healthcare and healthcare policies in many states. Additionally, she will bring outstanding academic and legal expertise to benefit the committee. We urge the Department of Commerce and the USTR to appoint Ms. Sharon Treat to serve on ITAC 3 and/or ITAC 15.

Thank you for considering our recommendations

Sincerely,

Margaret Rotundo  
Senate Co-Chair

John Patrick  
House Co-Chair

cc:       Maine's Congressional Delegation  
          Governor John E. Baldacci  
          Steven Rowe, Attorney General  
          Members, Citizen Trade Policy Commission  
          Alan Stearns, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor